

New patient tower opens at Banner - UMC Tucson April 22

Join us for community preview April 7

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TUCSON, Ariz. (March 25, 2019) -- Banner - University Medical Center Tucson will welcome its first patients to its new, nine-story patient tower beginning April 22.

Nearly four years under construction, the \$446 million tower features 228 private rooms, 20 new operating rooms, new diagnostic imaging and cardiac catheterization labs, a new cafeteria and stunning views of Tucson and the Santa Catalina mountains.

“Banner - University Medicine is proud to present this 21st century academic medical center to Southern Arizona and to our partners at the University of Arizona,” said Chad Whelan, MD, CEO of Banner - University Medicine in Tucson.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to move into a new building like this,” he said. “It gives us the opportunity to transform the patient-care model to deliver a truly collaborative, team-based approach to care,” he said.

“Banner has built the Tucson community and the University of Arizona a beautiful new hospital that will be a state-of-the-art learning ground for future generations of UA physicians, nurses and scientists,” said UA President Robert C. Robbins, MD. “It’s a realization of the promise and potential we envisioned four years ago in our academic affiliation with Banner Health.”

With this 670,000-square-foot tower expansion, Banner - UMC Tucson’s capacity will increase from 479 to 649 licensed beds. Adult ICU beds, always in high demand at Banner - UMC, will increase by 96 new beds.

The new tower, which includes \$50 million in new patient-care equipment and computer technology, replaces older sections of the original hospital building, which opened in 1971 as University Hospital.

Then, as now, the hospital serves as the primary teaching hospital of the University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson. It has been recognized as a U.S. News and World Report “Best Hospital” every year for more than two decades.

“Banner’s beautiful new hospital tower is an incredible gift to and investment in medical education in Arizona,” said Irving L. Kron, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon and interim dean of the UA College of Medicine - Tucson. “Our medical students and physician residents will learn the art and science of medicine in this first-class clinical facility designed around patients’ needs. It’s the teaching hospital of the future.”

The hospital’s main lobby and entrance will shift to the new tower, which is surrounded by ample surface parking and nearby covered parking. Valet service will be available at this new entrance. The main thoroughfare onto the hospital campus is now at Campbell Avenue and East Elm Street.

The tower’s entire fifth floor will be devoted to Women’s and Infant Services, with 12 light-filled labor and delivery suites and 24 maternity rooms. Other tower features include:

- All private rooms with private bathroom and shower
- Telehealth capabilities in all ICU rooms
- Patient lifts provided in most patient rooms for staff and patient safety
- Recliners and sleeper sofas in each patient room
- Telemetry monitoring on all floors

“The original hospital served Tucson and the University of Arizona well for nearly 50 years,” said Sarah Frost, CEO of Banner - University Medical Center Tucson. “But our new tower is the hospital of today and tomorrow. Our patients, our physicians, our staff and students will find it spacious and cutting edge, yet friendly and healing.”

Frost thanked the hospital’s staff, its neighbors, EMS workers and the community for their patience during

nearly four years of construction on the busy Banner – UMC campus, which also is home to Diamond Children’s Medical Center and Southern Arizona’s only Level I trauma center.

“We’re told that our tower is one of the biggest construction jobs ever undertaken in the city of Tucson,” she said. “Some days we had more than 550 workers on the work site. It’s been an enormous undertaking, but looking at the finished tower today, it was clearly worth the effort.”

The tower was designed by architects Shepley Bulfinch, engineers AEI and GLHN Architects & Engineers (Tucson). The lead contractor was Sundt I DPR.

The hospital’s renovation is so massive, it will have a new address as of April 22:

- Banner – UMC Tucson
- 1625 N. Campbell Ave.
- Tucson AZ 85719

Community Preview, April 7

Banner – University Medicine cordially invites the Tucson community to preview the tower’s first two floors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, April 7, when the tower will serve as the starting point for Cyclovia Tucson’s spring route for cyclists and walkers.

In addition to guided tours, there will be live music, food trucks, a rock climbing wall, a zip line, giveaways and family-friendly activities just outside the tower.

Cyclovia Tucson’s three-mile, car-free route will run from the tower to the Warehouse Arts District. Banner – University Medicine is the title sponsor for this popular, free community event.

News assignment editors: Please contact Katie Riley, 520-626-4828, if you wish to tour the tower before its official opening.

About Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson, nationally ranked as a Best Hospital by U.S. News and World Report, and Banner – University Medical Center South, are part of Banner – University Medicine, a premier academic medical network. These institutions are academic medical centers for the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson. Included on the two campuses are Diamond Children’s Medical Center and many specialty clinics. The two academic medical centers are part of Arizona-based Banner Health, one of the largest nonprofit health-care systems in the country, with 28 hospitals in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming. For more information, visit BannerHealth.com/UniversityTucson or bannerhealth.com/UniversitySouth

 [Banner - University Medical Center new tower](#)
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 [Banner - University Medical Center Tucson new Surgery entrance](#)
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 [Banner - University Medical Center Tucson Emergency entrance](#)
(304 KB)

 [Banner - University Medical Center Tucson patient room](#)
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 [Banner - University Medical Center Tucson maternity room](#)
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<http://bannerhealth.mediaroom.com/BUMCTnewtower>